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Mosquito destruction and sanitary inspection at Nuevo Laredo.

MEXICO CITY, May 2, 1904.

Dr. WALTER WYMAN,
President of the Committee of the American Republics,
Washington.

MY DEAR DOCTOR: Under date of the 28th ultimo the sanitary agent in Laredo wired me as follows:

The form in which we are carrying out the destruction of the larvae is subject to the instructions of your board, and is as follows: A visit is made by special commissioners to all the houses in the city with strict instructions to inspect all the water deposits and destroy all those which are not indispensably required for domestic purposes, and to apply oil to the others, ordering them to be closed, so as to prevent the mosquitoes from going in and out. For the ponds and water reservoirs in streets and public places, we likewise use oil in all those that have not been filled up. Not a single day have we neglected to work for the desired end, and by this date we have visited all the houses in the city. I am at present continuing the house-to-house inspection, so as to overlook and demand the fulfillment of the instructions.

This work has been carried out up to the present date with visits to 479 houses. The domiciliary visits in order to observe any case suspected of yellow fever have been placed under the charge of 20 inspectors, each in charge of a block, and under the supervision of 4 physicians who are in the city. Up to the present date no case has been observed that could be suspected of being yellow fever.

I have the pleasure of transcribing the above to you in connection with your wire of the 27th ultimo, and I would also inform you that, notwithstanding the already good organization of the sanitary service in Laredo, I have now reenforced it with seven more employees, and have ordered a scrupulous inspection to be made of the passengers arriving by railroad so as to prevent the passage into American territory, not only of persons suffering from yellow fever or smallpox, but of all who are even suspected of suffering from such diseases.

With best regards, I remain, yours, very sincerely,

E. LICEAGA.

Increased service for antimosquito work along lines of travel.

LAREDO, TEX., May 3, 1904.

SIR: I have the honor to state that a separate force for demonstrating antimosquito work along the line of the Texas-Mexican Railroad (Laredo to Corpus Christi) should be organized, to begin work at once, rather than to wait upon that now at work under Doctor Cock along the line of the International and Great Northern Railroad to complete that line.

Doctor Cock reported stegomyia prevalent in all of the towns inspected by him along the Texas-Mexican Railway, so that unless measures are taken at once looking to their destruction this entire territory will become highly infectible, needing only the introduction of a case to start the infection.

There is constant communication by stage and private conveyance between Hebbronville and Rio Grande City, and between the latter place and points in Mexico, even as far south as Linares, and it is at least possible that fever may be introduced by this route.

Now that the rigid State quarantine at Laredo, Eagle Pass, and El Paso is in force, the route via Rio Grande City and Hebbronville is apt to become decidedly more popular, and it may be advisable to station a service representative at Rio Grande City on information duty and to act as quarantine officer.

May 13, 1904

I respectfully recommend that I be authorized to appoint three experienced lay inspectors * * * for this duty, and an acting assistant. *

Respectfully,

T. F. RICHARDSON,
Passed Assistant Surgeon.

The SURGEON-GENERAL, Washington.

[Reply.]

WASHINGTON, May 9, 1904.

RICHARDSON, Laredo, Tex.:

Replying your letter 3d, authorized nominate 3 lay inspectors * * * and 1 acting assistant * * * for antimosquito work between Laredo and Corpus Christi; also nominate an inspector * * * for duty at Rio Grande City, as recommended.

WYMAN.

Visit to Minera and Cannel—Vaccination.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Sauvignet reports, May 3, through Passed Assistant Surgeon Richardson, as follows:

In compliance with instructions of the 1st instant, I have the honor to state that I proceeded to Minera, Tex., on the 2d instant, for the purpose of doing what vaccination was practicable, and for general observation.

All adults and a large number of the children were found to be well vaccinated, but in a house to house visit, accompanied by the resident surgeon, I vaccinated 80 children between the ages of 3 months and 5 years.

Barrels containing water were also inspected and found to be free from mosquito eggs or larvæ, nor is the mosquito present in this camp at this time. Barrels are in general use for the water supply, there being nearly always two at each house. A strong southeast wind prevails.

Cannel was also visited, but I did no vaccination, my supply of virus having been exhausted at Minera. The water supply there is the same as that at Minera, but owing to the low range of hills east of the camp ventilation is not so thorough. The creek or arroyo on the east of Cannel has some standing water, which, owing to lack of time, I did not inspect; but the company have a car of crude oil at Laredo which will be used for the treatment of this creek.

From 200 to 250 vaccine points will probably be needed for the thorough vaccination of Cannel. The population is estimated at 1,800.

Circular of instructions for mosquito destruction at Nuevo Laredo.

The following is received from Passed Assistant Surgeon Richardson, under date of May 4:

I have the honor to inclose herewith a copy of circular of instructions for mosquito destruction, which is being distributed in Nuevo Laredo, together with a translation of the same.

The United States consul in that city informs me that there is now in operation there a house-to-house inspection, together with supervision of water containers.